During the year there was some friction between the Nayar and the Ealava communities which created a good deal of ill-feeling and led to some breaches of the peace, though not of a serious nature. This ill-feeling has happily subsided owing to the influence of the better disposed among the two classes.

7. **Judicial Department.**—Dewan Bahadur C. Vencobachariar having retired from the office of Chief Justice of the High Court, Mr. T. Sadasiva Aiyer B. A., M. L., whose services were lent to the State by the Madras Government, was appointed to the office.

Criminal Justice.—The number of Civil and Criminal Courts remained the same as in the year preceding *viz.* 28 and 66 respectively. The District Magistrate's Court at Alleppey was abolished and its territorial limits added to the Quilon Magisterial District.

The number of offences reported and returned as true was 19,572 and 17,434, showing a decrease of 4,187 and 912 respectively as compared with the figures for the previous year. The decline was mainly in offences under special and local laws. 1,530 appeals were preferred to the District Magistrates. 126 cases affecting 323 persons were tried and disposed of by the Sessions Courts.

Civil Justice.—The volume of original litigation remained almost the same. the institutions aggregating 40,313 against 40,589 in the year preceding. The disposals of the Munsiffs amounted to 40,241 and of the District Courts to 478 suits. The number of appeal cases fell from 3,077 to 2,945.

The arrears at the close of the year are reported to have risen in all the grades of Civil Courts; original suits, Munsiffs' Courts from 9,197 to 9,628 and District Courts, 416 to 519 and appeals, District Courts from 1,216 to 1,475 and High Court, 318 to 485. It has thus become highly necessary to concert measures to relieve the congestion of arrears noticeable in the Civil Courts in the interests alike of the litigant public and the Courts themselves. The Bill recently introduced to amend the Civil Courts Regulation when brought into operation will it is expected conduce to better results being shown as regards arrears in the Civil Courts.

8. **Jails.**—The number of admissions to the Central Prison, Trivandrum was 616, of whom 523 were convicts. Of the 23 juvenile prisoners admitted during the year 3 were formerly pupils of the Reformatory. The health of the prisoners was very satisfactory, the number of deaths being only 9 or 1·82 per cent, the lowest on record for the last 12 years. All executions are now conducted within the premises of the Central Prison. As it is desirable that the resources of the Central Prison should be utilised as far as possible to meet the requirements of the State Departments, Heads of Departments have recently been requested to place with the Superintendent all orders for articles which they require and which are manufactured in the Central Prison. The net profit from the Jail industries during the year was nearly Rs. 9,000, showing a considerable increase over that of the previous year, Rs. 6,082.

9. **Registration.**—The number of Registration offices remained the same as in last year *viz.*, 51. The total number of instruments presented for

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